

REMARKS:

Applicant has carefully studied the nonfinal Examiner's Action and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action.

In furtherance of Applicant's telephone interview with Examiners Alvin Hunter and Paul Sewell and their recommendations, the above-mentioned application has been amended to distinguish the guide member interface described in U.S. Patent No. 5,375,833 to *Marier*. Applicant claims have been limited to include a releasable engagement means which is not described or suggested by the '833 patent. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicant's position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

By: 

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Dated: April 2, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment B is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit 3711, Attn.: Alvin A. Hunter, (703) 872-9302 on April 2, 2003.

Dated: April 2, 2003


Deborah Preza